CONFIDENTIAL

Request for Proposals for the Purchase of the M.C. Migel Rare Book Collection

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is seeking a buyer for its M.C. Migel Rare Book Collection, comprised of over 750 titles spanning from 1617 to the twentieth century. AFB would like to find an impactful home for the collection, preferably an organization in our field committed to making the collection more widely available and accessible to historians, scholars, and the general public. Interested parties should submit proposals to communications@afb.org with the subject line "M.C. Migel Rare Book Collection" no later than February 14, 2020.

Attached is a recent appraisal from a rare books' expert at James Cummins Bookseller, valuing the collection at $229,450.

About the M.C. Migel Rare Book Collection

The M.C. Migel Rare Book collection is comprised of over 750 titles spanning from 1617 to the twentieth century. There are volumes in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Esperanto, Dutch, Polish and Norwegian. Many are seminal volumes in the field, offering descriptions of changing social attitudes, innovations in teaching methods and care for those with vision loss over the past three hundred years.

The collection was compiled primarily by AFB librarian Helga Lende during her tenure at AFB (1929-1964). Lende traveled to Europe acquiring volumes for the organization. Some of the highlights of the collection are as follows:

- *Les Harangues de Louys Grotto, Aveugle D'Hadrie Admirable en Eloquence* [The Lectures of Louis Grotto, the eloquent blind man of Hadrian] is the oldest book in the collection, dating back to 1617. The book was published in France and concerns a blind man Louis Grotto who was an ambassador during the era of Hadrian and who was famous for his speeches.

- *Cyprien de la Nativite de la Vierge* by Philippe Vleughaert, Brussels, 1664. An early book in French on blindness.

- *Two Books, viz. A LITTLE HANDFUL OF CORDIAL COMFORTS: AND A CAVEAT Against SEDUCERS: Whereunto are Annexed The Blind Man's Meditations, and, A Dialogue between a Blind Man and Death* by Richard Standfast, 1684. This is the oldest book in the collection in the English language.

- *Lettre sur Les Aveugles à L'Usage de Ceux qui Voyent* [Letter About the Blind for the Use of Those who Can See]. This is a rare, First Edition copy of a landmark publication that helped change attitudes towards those with vision loss. The book is by Denis Diderot and was published in 1749. .

  This book resulted in Diderot being sent to prison at Vincennes. "The book tried to show the dependence of one's ideas on the five senses and considers the case of the intellect deprived of the aid of one of the senses. His outlook was too advanced for the authorities of his day and hence resulted in his punishment. He was released after three months and soon after began his work with D'Alembert on the famous Encyclopedia.

  It is interesting to note that in this book Diderot suggested the possibility of teaching the blind to read by the sense of touch.

  This is a very rare First Edition volume. In the period that it was published it was often the style to omit the name of the publisher of a controversial title in order to protect him or her and also to name the place of publication as London or Amsterdam.

- *Essai sur l'Education des Aveugles* [Report/Essay on the Education of the Blind] by Valentin Haüy, Paris, 1786. Rare, first edition book that marked the beginning of modern methods of teaching blind students. Valentin Haüy (1745-1822) was the visionary founder of the first school in the world for blind students.

  Haüy founded the first school for blind students in Paris in 1785. He also began the first embossed printing for those with vision loss. Later he founded the first school for the blind in Russia. Due to his example similar schools were established in Austria, England, Germany, Holland, Sweden and Switzerland between 1791 and 1809.

- *Notice Historique sur L'Instruction des Jeunes Aveugles* [Historical Account of the Education of Blind Youth], Paris, 1819. An example of the embossed print that Valentin Haüy pioneered at the Institute for Blind Youth in Paris.

- *Essai sur L'Instruction des Aveugles ou Expose Analytique des Procedes pour Les Instruire* [Report/Essay on teaching the blind with an analytical discussion on the methods of teaching], Paris, 1817. Book by Sébastien Guillié, Director of the Institute for Blind Youth in Paris. And Principal Physician of the Royal Institution of the Blind, Paris. Guillié was the

director when Louis Braille arrived at the school in 1819. The book contains engravings of blind people involved in different activities such as studying, playing the harp, working at a printing press, making slippers, carpets and cloth.

- *Atlas of the United States Printed for the Use of the Blind* by Samuel Gridley Howe, Boston, 1837. This book contains embossed state maps. This edition contains a two line autograph by Laura Bridgman written on December 26, 1839. In addition there is an engraved armorial bookplate of Edward Everett which bears the autograph presentation inscription of Everett to King Louis Philippe of France.

  Samuel Gridley Howe (1801-1876) was the husband of Julia Ward Howe. He was the Head of the Perkins Institution for the Blind 1832-1876 and was Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of State Charities 1865-1874.

  Dr. Howe was a graduate of Harvard Medical School and can rightly be called The Founder of Education for the Blind in the United States. In July 1832 he started the New England Asylum for the Blind (later named the Perkins School for the Blind) in his father's home in Boston. He was noted for successfully teaching the blind girl, Laura Bridgman and he aided in the establishment of other schools for the blind.

  He was an ardent worker in the anti-slavery movement and was also interested in prison reform and the care of mentally deficient children. He also was an "internationalist" having taken part in the Green Revolution in the late 1820s and in the Polish revolt in 1831.

- *Precis sur l'Histoire de France* [Summary on the History of France], Paris, 1837. This was the first full-length book published in braille. This is the rarest book in the collection. The American Foundation for the Blind owns one of the only three known extant copies.
  - Folio, half brown morocco, red leather label.
  - Paris: Imprimerie de L'Institution Royale de Jeunes Aveugles, 1837

- *Souvenirs d'un Aveugle, Voyage Autour du Monde* [Memories of a Blind Man, Voyage Around the World], 1839. This edition contains wonderful sketches by Arago of the places he visited in the southern hemisphere; drawn prior to his blindness.

- *Nouveau Procédé Pour Représenter Par Des Points La Forme Même Des Lettres, Les Cartes de Géographie, Les Figures De Géométrie, Les*

Caractères De Musique, Etc., À L'Usage Des Aveugles Louis Braille (1809-1852) became blind at the age of three.

He was a student of music and an organist and was a teacher of the blind from 1828 at the Royal Institution for the Young Blind in Paris.

Braille published his braille dot system in 1829 and in 1837 he published the first edition of the book displayed here which was the complete explanation of his system including music and mathematics.